Sakai Newsletter

June 14, 2007

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1. What's Happening in Amsterdam?

The 7th Sakai Conference in Amsterdam has been a great success with over 410 people from 35 countries on 5 continents attending!

Here are some ways to catch up on the events and activities:

BLOGS:
Dutch News and Opinions blog: http://sakai-nl.blogspot.com/

Sakai blog mashup -- multiple blogs:
http://pipes.yahoo.com/pipes/pipe.run?_id=2s5P_o4Z3BGSiirpjUnRlg&_render=rss

Online by Nature -- Andreas Wittke (in German): http://www.onlinebynature.de

e-Literate -- Michael Feldstein: http://www.mfeldstein.com/

Promptu -- Mara Hancock: http://promptu.wordpress.com/

Chris Coppola's Blog: http://coppola.rsmart.com/

Planet Sakai -- multiple blogs: http://www.planetsakai.org/

 PODCAST:
A podcast of the keynote speech is available at:

http://confluence.sakaiproject.org/confluence/display/CONF07/Keynote

Click on the "Attachments" tab.

Many more podcasts to come! Watch the conference website (see below) for further information.

PHOTOS:
Go fickr.com and search for this tag:

sakaiamsterdam07

CONFERENCE WEBSITE:
Homepage:
http://www.sakaiproject.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=190&Itemid=615

Schedule: https://sakaiproject.org/conference/admin/schedule.php

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2. Sakai Foundation Announces New Executive Director

After a thorough search I am pleased to announce, on behalf of the Board of Directors, that Michael Korcuska has been named Executive Director of the Sakai Foundation, effective July 23, 2007. In this role, he will lead the Foundation's activities in developing technology, sharing best practices, and fostering collaboration on behalf of the Sakai community.

"Michael has an intense passion for Sakai's mission and purpose, a disposition and leadership style that will work well in our collaborative, energetic community. He has a great track record managing software-focused operations for learning that provide him a great base of experience to draw on as he leads us through the entirely new challenges of this ground-breaking initiative. I'm excited that we've been able to pair this exceptional

community and an exceptional individual like Michael to lead us." Chris Coppola, President, rSmart Group and Sakai Board.

"Michael's experience with large scale software development and the culture of higher education are an excellent fit for the growing Sakai Community. He understands the Sakai vision and can help our community continue to achieve it." Brad Wheeler, CIO, Indiana University and Sakai Board.

"I look forward to working with Michael to build on the fantastic efforts of the founding institutions and the first years of the Sakai Foundation. Michael is an ideal person to develop the shared vision of the Sakai community for a new model of open, collaborative development in higher education and to lead the Foundation as the facilitator of that future." John Norman, Sakai Board Chair.

Michael has a long and distinguished career in educational technology, which began over twenty years ago at Stanford University's Courseware Authoring Tools Group and Apple Computer's Multimedia Lab. Throughout this time he has served in a wide variety of roles relevant to Sakai including software engineering, product management, instructional design and information technology management. Michael most recently served as the Chief Operating Officer at Employment Law Training, based in San Francisco and delivering an e-Learning service to 500+ customers and 600,000+ learners. Michael previously held positions of leadership and technology innovation at DigitalThink, Cognitive Arts Corporation and the Institute for Learning Sciences at Northwestern University. He has an M.S. in Computer Science from Northwestern University, and a B.S. in Symbolic Systems from Stanford University, two universities that are, coincidentally, members of the Sakai Foundation. He has also recently been contributing, as a volunteer, to the Sakai Requirements working group.

"Sakai is one of the most important technology efforts in higher education today and it is an honor to be joining the community. Everyone has collaborated to created a tremendous foundation, both in terms of product and community, and I look forward to helping the community realize the full potential of Sakai" said Michael. "I especially want to thank Chuck Severance, whose leadership as Chief Architect and Executive Director has made this incredible opportunity possible and has already provided invaluable assistance as we begin this transition."

Michael will be attending the upcoming conference in Amsterdam where he looks forward to meeting and listening to as many members of the community as possible.

Chuck Severance has kindly agreed to stay on as Executive Director until Michael takes up the post in July.

John Norman
Chair, Sakai Foundation Board
john@caret.cam.ac.uk

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3. Sakai 2.4 Launches into Production at UC Merced

I am pleased to announce that University of California, Merced, officially and successfully launched Sakai 2.4 into production. For our Summer Session term, which starts 6/18, we will be running 2.4.

UC Merced thanks the community for all its support and for an excellent release.

We want to give a special thank you to:
- Andrew Poland
- Seth Theriault
- Jon Gorrono
- Josh Holtzman

Without your help we would not have been able to launch and have our Sakai implementation ready.

Faust Gorham
fgorham@ucmerced.edu
Chief Information Technology Architect & Web Services Manager

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4. Major Roster Re-write for Sakai 2.5

A major re-write of the Roster tool has been underway at the University of California Berkeley (UCB) since Sakai 2.3, with the goal of addressing performance issues and enhancing functionality. This effort has reached a level of maturity at which the Roster Project Team has decided to make the UCB version or "new" Roster, the one destined for Sakai 2.5. As a result, on 30 May 2007, the new Roster code was merged into trunk (r31202). This change is also reflected in the membership of the Roster Project Team; Indiana was the initial design and development lead for the Roster tool, and is now handing off those responsibilities to UCB.

If Roster is an important tool for your implementation, I encourage you to begin evaluating it sooner, rather than later. This will help ensure that the functionality on which you and your users are dependent remains in good shape.

What does this mean for the 2.4 or "old" Roster tool? The Indiana members of the Roster Project Team will continue to work with the community through the 2.5 release to provide security and limited bug fixes to the 2.4 Roster tool. This will be available via the 2.4.x maintenance branch, as well as directly from Sakai's Subversion repository. Indiana is unable to commit resources to this effort past that time; however, if there is sufficient interest in the community, then those interested can take on the task of maintaining the old Roster in 2.4.x branch.

There is also a 2.4.x-compatible version of the "new" Roster tool, the "ucb" branch, which can be found in Subversion (https://source.sakaiproject.org/svn/roster/branches/ucb). As the trunk version of Roster continues to evolve through the 2.5 release, UCB will endeavor to keep this version up-to-date for folks interested in using the "new" Roster with their 2.4.x Sakai. UCB will be running this version in their production environment, however, please be aware that this branch was not part of the 2.4.0 community QA process, so consider it as "use at your own risk."

When the 2.5 version of Roster is released, UCB will have completed its volunteer commitment the project, and will be retiring from a lead role on the Roster Project Team. At that time the Roster tool will be in a relatively mature state and the project will enter maintenance mode; meaning we can count on UCB to continue to provide security and bug fixes, as needed, for the 2.5.x maintenance branch, but that no further development is planned. Further enhancement of the Roster tool will be left for others from the community to step forward and take on, though UCB and Indiana will endeavor to provide mentorship and help the next round of volunteers come up to speed.

Peter Knoop
knoop@umich.edu
Sakai Project Coordinator

5. Updated Administrative Documentation for Sakai 2.4

For the last few months, I have been working with the documentation workgroup to compile the Sakai 2.4 Administrator's guide. The 2.4 Admin Guide is intended to help new administrators in moving from being able to set up Sakai out of the box to being able to support Sakai in production.

Here's a link to the 2.4 Admin Guide:

http://confluence.sakaiproject.org/confluence/x/9Z4

As Peter Knoop rightly suggested, the 2.4 Admin Guide (which is intended to be tied to a specific release) has a lot of overlap with existing SakaiPedia entries. With that in mind, I also went through and attempted to reconcile some of the content between the 2.4 Administrator's guide and the administrator's section of the SakaiPedia by linking back and forth between the two areas. I have also updated much of the SakaiPedia administrative content to fill in gaps, update content, and in general do a bit of editing for clarity. Finally, I collapsed the structure of the Administrative area of the SakaiPedia somewhat (moving pages around within that space), so that the tables of contents are a bit more readable.

Here's a link to the Administrator's section of the SakaiPedia:

http://confluence.sakaiproject.org/confluence/x/WwM

Both of these documentation efforts are an ongoing process, which cannot be completed by any one individual. Please take a moment to review the work done and comment and/or edit as needed.

Thanks,

Tony Atkins
Tony.Atkins@uhi.ac.uk
Software Development Manager
UHI Millennium Institute

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6. Announcing the Sakai Registry - Finding Sakai Information

With each passing release of Sakai there are more tools to choose from, new ways to customize, and improvements to integration. How do you find what you need to make intelligent decisions?

Introducing the Sakai Registry. The registry is a database of Sakai products: tools, services, and commercial offerings. Using simple search commands, you can browse through over 40 descriptions of tools. These descriptions include information on when the tool was released, what status it has (contrib, provisional, full support), and other technical data. Links are provided to the tool source, documentation, and related information. Screenshots are being added.

You are invited to comment on tools and later you'll be able to rate them.

While initially focused on listing Sakai products, the web site will expand over time to include other kinds of content as well. The first new content is "The People of Sakai", a series of articles about the movers and shakers in the Sakai community. You can read

interviews with Joseph Hardin, Jeff Merriman, and Charles Severance. A new interview with Rob Lowden will be posted soon.

The Sakai Registry is a joint project of Mark Norton and Erik Froese. The site is supported by contributions and advertisements. If this site is useful to you, please consider making a donation and supporting our advertisers. Money will go towards maintenance, expanded content and new features.

If you have any feedback or suggestions, please send them to
suggestions@sakairegistry.com

Mark Norton
markjnorton@earthlink.net

Erik Froese
erik.froese@gmail.com

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7. ePortfolio 2007 Conference 17-19 October, Maastricht, The Netherlands

This week, during the wonderful conference in Amsterdam, I have met a
lot of people who are interested in the portfolio theme. I informed
many people about the next international portfolio conference, because
some of the presentations fit the goal of this next conference.

This year this conference will (also) be organised in the Netherlands
Maastricht
17-19 October, 2007
http://events.eife-l.org/ep2007/overview

"The objective is to have a maximum of good presentations."

It is still possible to send in a proposal for the 5th International
ePortfolio Conference.

I heard today that the deadline of 15 June will be extended till the
first of July (and maybe if you have a good presentation, a little bit
later).

The conference is organised into two main tracks: an academic track with
peer reviewed research papers, and a practitioner track with pee
reviewed short papers, case studies and work in progress.
Also there is a plugfest and preconference.

So feel free to send in a proposal for this conference!

An aside: Is it necessary that we, as the OSP community, are also
are visible in the conference -- One year there was an OSP exhibition
stand (in la Rochelle) --
or that we do something with an introduction to OSP, or an overview of
use of OSP (as we did in last preconference)?

Marij Veugelers
Universiteit van Amsterdam
(also member of ePortfolio 2007 Organisation Committee)

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8. Reminder: JA-SIG With Altitude!, Summer Conference, 24-27 June 2007

From our friends at JA-SIG, a final reminder regarding the upcoming JA-SIG with
Altitude! Conference including an inaugural Sakai track. A splendid time is guaranteed
for all.

Cheers,

Anthony Whyte
arwhyte@umich.edu

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JA-SIG With Altitude! Denver, Colorado, USA

There will be more opportunities to participate than ever.

Participate in the Wednesday afternoon BarCamp (http://www.ja-sig.org/wiki/x/gQIs)
Present a 10-minute kiosk demonstration Feed into the conference blog space. Don't miss
this chance to catch up on the latest developments in the JA-SIG projects as well as the
Sakai and Kuali projects. It's a great opportunity for Sakai users to get together stateside.
Come join your colleagues in Denver for stimulating presentations and expansive
networking opportunities.

With only three weeks left until the conference, there is still room in many seminars. We
would like to highlight the following:

Implementation Planning - Shelley McLaughlin (Wed 6/27 1:30 - 5:00) Implementing
and driving adoption of an application like a portal takes coordination, effort, stakeholder
consensus, and a clear implementation plan. This session is designed to help institutions
considering a uPortal pilot or a production roll off get started on the right foot. Session

attendees will participate in a mock implementation planning session where we will cover key topics and end user focused decisions that will need to be made prior to beginning of the implementation, as well as techniques and recommendations for facilitating a similar session on your own campus.

Managing Web Content - Robert Sherratt (Wed 6/27 1:30 - 5:00) How do you manage your institutional and portal content? Come to this session to find out about content management systems, methods for their evaluation and gain hands-on experience using the JA-SIG sponsored HyperContent CMS.

User Centered Design - Gary Thompson (Sunday 6/24 8:30 - Noon) How do you get students, faculty, and staff to want to come to your portal? In this engaging, hands-on session you will learn how to understand your users and design an environment they will adopt.

Visit the conference site at http://www.ja-sig.org/conferences/07summer/index.html

We are looking forward to seeing you all in Denver.

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9. Unicon Presents 17 Technical Seminars at JA-SIG Summer 2007 Conference

Unicon, Inc. will be presenting and participating in a total of seventeen technical seminars at the upcoming JA-SIG Summer 2007 Conference being held in Denver, Colorado this June 24-27, 2007. Six technical representatives from Unicon will be delivering presentations on a variety of subjects pertaining to open source application deployment, development, and support for the online campus.

Unicon Presentations at JA-SIG Summer 2007 Conference Note - the following presentations have abstracts and descriptions available on the JA-SIG Web site at: http://www.ja-sig.org/conferences/07summer/index.html

Sunday, June 24, 2007

8:30 AM - 12:00 PM
Half Day Seminars
User-Centered Design: The Key to Adoption: Gary Thompson, Sr. UE Designer, Unicon, Inc.

Introduction to uPortal for Implementers: Andrew Petro, Sr. Software Engineer, Unicon, Inc.

Monday, June 25, 2007

10:15 AM - 11:15 AM
Design and Technical Development
Developing with JSR 170: Lennard Fuller, Software Architect, Unicon, Inc.

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Projects, Applications, and Solutions
uPortal 2.6: Andrew Petro, Sr. Software Engineer, Unicon, Inc.

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Making the most out of uPortal Channel Types: Cris Holdorph, Software Architect,
Unicon, Inc.

3:00 PM - 3:30 PM
Kiosk Demonstration
Recent Unicon Open Source Activity Kiosk: Andrew Petro, Sr. Software Engineer,
Unicon, Inc.

 4:45 PM - 5:45 PM
Design and Technical Development
Introduction to Cernunos: Andrew Wills, Software Architect, Unicon, Inc.

Tuesday, June 26, 2007
9:45 AM - 10:15 AM
Kiosk Demonstration
Open Source Showcase: Jason Lacy, VP of Client Development, Unicon, Inc.

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Addressing the Enterprise
MyPearson.com – a Large Scale Deployment of uPortal: Bill Hughes, Director of
MyPearson, Pearson Education; Lennard Fuller, Software Architect, Unicon, Inc.

Projects, Applications, and Solutions
Web Proxy Channel and Portlet: Andrew Petro, Sr. Software Engineer, Unicon, Inc.

4:45 PM - 5:45 PM
Design and Technical Development
Unicon Warlock Portlets: Andrew Wills, Software Architect, Unicon, Inc.

Sakai Implementation
Georgia Tech Sakai Implementation: Cris Holdorph, Software Architect, Unicon, Inc.

Wednesday, June 27, 2007
8:30 AM - 9:30 AM
Design and Technical Development

Quartz Job Scheduling Framework for Java: Cris Holdorph, Software Architect, Unicon, Inc.

9:45 AM - 10:45 AM
Portlet vs. Channel Smackdown!: Cris Holdorph, Software Architect & Andrew Petro, Sr. Software Engineer; - Unicon, Inc., Susan Bramhall, Sr. Programmer-Yale University, Eric Dalquist, IS Technical Services Specialist -University of Wisconsin – Madison

1:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Half Day Seminars
Spring Portlet MVC and Spring Web Flow Tutorial: Cris Holdorph, Software Architect, Unicon, Inc.

Implementation Planning – Getting Started on the Right Foot: Shelley McLaughlin, Sr. Business Analyst, Unicon, Inc.

Sprint Portlet MVC and Spring Web Flow Tutorial: Cris Holdorph, Software Architect, Unicon, Inc.

Joe Waldygo
joe@topspinpr.com

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10. Events

JA-SIG Summer 2007 Conference
June 24 - 27, 2007
Denver, Colorado
http://www.ja-sig.org/conferences/07summer/index.html

Sakai California Symposium -- "SakaiCAL"
Claremont McKenna College
Monday, 9 July 2007 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
The Claremont Colleges and the University of California, Santa Barbara
http://web.cgu.edu/sakaisymposium/

1st International Conference ONLINE EDUCA MOSCOW 2007
September 30 - October 3, 2007
President Hotel
Moscow, Russia
http://www.online-educa-moscow.com/index_eng.php

ePortfolio 2007 Conference
October 17 - 19, 2007

Maastricht, The Netherlands
http://events.eife-l.org/ep2007/overview

Defining the Scientific Evolution of Technology Enhanced Learning: The
Kaleidoscope 2007 Symposium
Hotel Intercontinental, Berlin
November 26 - 27, 2007
Berlin, Germany
http://www.noe-kaleidoscope.org/group/symposium/

Online Educa Berlin
Hotel Intercontinental, Berlin
November 28 - 30, 2007
Berlin, Germany
http://www.online-educa.com/